

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PC-10 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00 AGR-20

INT-08 COME-00 FDRE-00 DRC-01 /138 W

----- 018691

R 041430Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8345

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS BAMAKO 0030

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652 N A

SUBJ: COTONOU-GAO RAIL/ROAD ROUTE TO TRANSPORT GRAIN TO  
VI REGION

REF: BAMAKO 3767; COTONOU 1762; STATE 223313; ABIDJAN 8322;  
STATE 237743

1. CHARGE HAD LENGHTY DISCUSSION JANUARY 2 WITH MIN  
DEFENSE DOUKARA CONCERNING ON-GOING ISSUE OF USE  
COTONOU-GAO RAIL/ROAD ROUTE TO TRANSPORT GRAIN TO VI  
REGION IN ORDER TO AVOID OR MINIMIZE COSTLY U.S. GRAIN  
AIRLIFT IN 1974. DOUKARA EMPHATICALLY IN FAVOR OF  
MOPTI-GAO ROUTE OVER COTONOU-GAO PROPOSAL. HE SAID  
THAT NIAMEY-GAO STRETCH OF ROAD WORSE THAN MOPTI-GAO  
ROAD WITH MANY BRIDGES OUT WHICH PREVENTS GASOLINE  
TRUCKS FROM REACHING GAO. HE ESTIMATED THAT  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS WITH DAHOMEY AND  
NIGER WOULD BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN  
AND THAT THIS WAS RESPONSIBILITY OF TRUCKING FIRMS  
NOT GOM. HE SAID THAT GOM WOULD NOT PROVIDE GOVERNMENTAL  
FUEL FOR PRIVATE TURCKERS FROM DAHOMEY. FINALLY, HE  
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DOUBTS THAT PRIVATE TRUCKERS HAVE TYPE OF TRUCK AND ABILITY

TO DELIVER GRAIN TO GAO IN QUANTITIES NEEDED.

2. ARGUING FORCEFULLY FOR MOPTI-GAO ROUTE, DOUKARA POINTED OUT THAT ARMY USES THIS ROUTE REGULARLY TO RESUPPLY THEIR BASES SIXTH REGION; THAT HE HAS JUST SENT 4 TRUCKS, EACH CARRYING 15 TON LOAD TO GAO TO DETERMINE PLACES ON ROAD NEEDING REPAIR; THAT TRUCKS MADE IT TO GAO; THAT HEAVY EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE IN MOPTI READY TO CARRY OUT ROAD REPAIRS; PROVIDED ONLY THAT DOUKARA PROVIDES GASOLINE TO GOM PUBLIC WORKS; THAT DOUKARA'S NOV 8 LETTER REQUESTED BY MAURICE WILLAIMS ALLOTTED US \$105,000 FOR IMPROVEMENT OF MOPTI-GAO ROAD; THAT USE OF MOPTI-GAO ROAD WOULD NOT REQUIRE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT; AND THAT 36 CHRYSLER TRUCKS BEING SHIPPED ARE ALLEGEDLY BUILT TO OPERATE OVER THIS ROUGH TERRAIN. IN SHORT, DOUKARA STRONGLY COMMITTED TO MOPTI-GAO ROUTE AND HE HAS TAKEN STEPS TO MAKE USE OF TRUCKS AND SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS AS SOON AS THEY ARE MADE AVAILABLE BY AID WASHINGTON.

3. GIVEN DOUKARA'S STRONG PREFERENCE FOR MOPTI-GAO ROUTE AND NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF ROAD BEFORE ONSET RAINY SEASON IN JUNE, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS FOR GASOLINE, SPARE PARTS, AND ROAD REPAIRS MENTIONED IN DOUKARA-WILLAIMS AGREEMENT OVER TRUCKS, SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE ASAP.

4. EMBASSY IMPRESSED WITH THOROUGHNESS HIATT TRIP REPORT, WHICH ELOQUENTLY DESCRIBES DETERIORATED STATE MOPTI-GAO ROAD. HOWEVER, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BEST CHANCE OF UTILIZING 36 CHRYSLER TRUCKS TO AVOID COSTLY AIRLIFT IN 1974 IS TO SUPPORT DOUKARA IN MANNER ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY HIM IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH AID OFFICIALS LAST NOVEMBER.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE ESTIMATED ARRIVAL WEST AFRICA 36 TRUCKS AND STATUS REMAINING FUNDS PROMISED IN STATE'S 237743 DATED 5 DEC.  
KUNIHOLM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, RAIL TRANSPORTATION, GRAINS, HIGHWAYS, GROUND VEHICLES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974BAMAKO00030  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BAMAKO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740163/aaaachbu.tel  
**Line Count:** 98  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BAMAKO 3767; COTONOU 1762; STATE 223, 313; ABIDJAN 8322;  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** smithrj  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAR 2002 by daviscw>; APPROVED <19-Nov-2002 by smithrj>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COTONOU-GAO RAIL/ROAD ROUTE TO TRANSPORT GRAIN TO VI REGION  
**TAGS:** EAID, SWEL, ML  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005